



## *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

CAROLANN PACER-RAMSEY  
PRESIDENT

### *MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL*

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**TO:** Members of the Mental Health Planning Council

**FROM:** Carolann Pacer-Ramsey, President

**DATE:** May 22, 2001

### **Summary of the Mental Health Planning Council Meeting - May 16, 2001**

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#### **Members Present:**

Agler, John	Kelly, Joe	Pacer-Ramsey, Carolann
Avery, Van	Kube, Joyce	Power, Cynthia
Ball, Beverly	Law, Joyce	Reinhard, Jim
Chenault, Lynn	Lovelace, Erica	Rose, Sherry
Cook, Paul	Marsh, Val	Russell, Alice
Fisher, Vicky	Martinez, Jim	Ward, Nancy
Johnston, Mary Kaye	McQuown, Mary	Walker-Bolton, Irene
		Yolton, William

#### **Visitors Present:**

#### **DMHMRSAS Staff:**

Cooper, Pam Fitzgerald	Koehler, Sharon
Davidson, Charline	Lung, Janet
Deal, Sterling	Merridew, Gail
Ferriss, Will	Street, Lisa
Koch, Randy	Walsh, Margaret

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Meeting called to order at 10:35 AM on May 16, 2001 by Carolann Pacer-Ramsey, Council President.

#### **Announcements:**

Vicky Fisher reminded Council members that May is Mental Health Month.

Joyce Kube informed members of the recent death of Krissie Casey's brother. Mary McQuown agreed to communicate the Council's sympathy with a card.

Charline Davidson reminded the Council that the process is underway to develop the Department's 2002-2008 Comprehensive Plan. Meetings were held in the fall and attended by Sherry Rose and Carolann. Since that time a database has been developed to track waiting list data. Charline hopes to have additional meetings the weeks of June 11 - 15 and June 18 - 22 to further identify issues and strategies to address system needs. **Any Council members interested in attending these meetings or getting involved in the development of the Comprehensive Plan should contact Charline at (804) 786-7357 or [cdavidson@dmhmrsas.state.va.us](mailto:cdavidson@dmhmrsas.state.va.us).**

Margaret Walsh reported that the new Human Rights Regulations are being sent to the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board may recommend changes. If the Board approves the Regulations, the next step would be to submit them for publication in the *Virginia Register of Regulations* and allow a 30 day comment period following publication. Unless there are significant comments leading to further revisions and additional comment periods, the Regulations could be finalized as soon as a July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Training on the new Regulations has been tentatively scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Vicky Fisher reported that the National Mental Health Association is providing an opportunity for consumers to attend a conference on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Washington to learn how to establish 12-Step programs in their communities for individuals with schizophrenia. **Interested parties should call Vicky at (804) 730-4802.**

The MHAV has asked that anyone who shops at Ukrop's and has not earmarked their Golden Gift receipts for a nonprofit organization do so for the MHAV by June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Cooper reminded the Council of Child Mental Health Week, May 7-13. The Department is working on a Suicide Prevention Plan and is offering train-the-trainer events in the area of suicide prevention. Interested parties should contact Betsy Draine at (804) 786-9143.

Randy Koch, Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation, reported on his Office's activities to apply for a State Mental Health Data Infrastructure Development Grant (\$100,000 per year for up to three years) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. These resources would be used to enhance the Department's capabilities to meet new data reporting requirements associated with the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. Randy requested a letter of support from the Council. It was so moved and passed unanimously.

Carolann reported that the Council has received a request to provide a letter of support for the application being made by the Department of Medical Assistance Services for a Medicaid Infrastructure Development Grant. It was moved and unanimously passed to provide such a letter.

### **Executive Committee Recommendations for Changes to Council Committee Structure**

Carolann reported on the Executive Committee's proposal to reorganize the Council's committee structure around the mandates of the Council as outlined in federal law:

#### **Advocacy Committee**

- Supports the vision/mission statement
- Views the system from a holistic approach

#### **Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

- Child & Adolescents
- Adults

#### **Block Grant Committee**

- Children & Adolescents
- Adults

#### **Administrative Committee**

- Supports the infra-structure of the Council
- Membership
- By-Laws & Policy

There was considerable discussion on the proposal, with particular concern expressed that the new structure did not lend itself to the adequate representation of children's issues. There were several proposals made to address this concern, including joint chairmanship of each committee by adult and children's chairpersons. Finally, a motion was made to refer the Executive Committee proposal to a Work Group made up of the Executive Committee and all other interested parties. The Work Group was charged with revising the Council's Bylaws to reflect the proposed committee structure and to present it back to the Council for adoption. The motion passed by a vote of 14 to 4. Members wishing to participate in revising the Bylaws should make that known to Mary McQuown.

### **Coordinating Council Participation in 2002 Performance Partnership Block Grant Application**

The Council reconvened after lunch with Vice President Lynn Chenault presiding.

Sterling Deal described the process for developing the application and opportunities for Council members to have input:

The intention now is for the format and content to be generally consistent with the 2000-2001 Plan, so the first step in preparing to give input into the 2002 application would be to review the 2000-2001 documents. There are 2 such documents, the 2000 Plan (the bound document with the purple cover, a copy of which everyone should have) and the modifications submitted last September. Department staff will distribute a copy of the modifications to members some time next week. Feel free to provide comments on these documents by email to Sterling at [sdeal@dmhmrsas.state.va.us](mailto:sdeal@dmhmrsas.state.va.us). (copy Carolann at [families1st@mindspring.com](mailto:families1st@mindspring.com).)

Department staff will have a draft of the 2002 plan written by late June and distributed to all members. There will be an opportunity to discuss the draft at the next Council meeting on 7/18. Executive Committee meetings are being scheduled in early July and early August to discuss the draft. Comments on the draft can be sent to Sterling or to members of the Executive Committee.

We are required to submit a copy of the draft to the Office of the Sec. of Health and Human Resources by 7/15 with final submission to the Center for Mental Health Services due on Sept. 1. We will holding a public hearing on August 17<sup>th</sup> to receive input on the draft.

Council members will be able to make comments up until the final submission on 9/1. The most effective way to provide input will be at the 7/18 meeting or by providing suggestions and comments to Sterling or Executive Committee members in time for the Executive Committee meetings in early July and early August.

### **Support for Educational Activities**

Several Council members requested financial support from the Council to attend upcoming conferences. After discussion it was moved to provide up to \$1000 each for Council members Beverly Ball and Cynthia Power and VOCAL Technical Assistance Coordinator Brian Parrish to attend the Alternatives Conference in Philadelphia this fall, for Council member Mary McQuown to attend the NAMI Annual Conference in July, and for Council President Carolann Pacer-Ramsey to attend a conference of her choice. It was moved to request the Executive Committee to develop policies and procedures for the use of Council funds to address the educational and equipment needs of Council members. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Developing Process for Issuing a Request for Applications for Consumer and Family**

## **Education**

Will Ferriss reported on the development of the RFA for consumer and family education. Current contracts expire at the end of September. A decision was made by the Council last year to continue these activities through a competitive process. In order to insure no disruption in these activities, the RFA should be issued by mid June. Bill Yolton, John Agler, Sherry Rose and Vicky Fisher volunteered to work with Will to continue the development of the RFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

## **Next Meeting Date:**

July 18, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Department of Rehabilitative Services